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Towards the XXVth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union

News that the next, XXVth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) is to be convened aroused the widest possible response from all Soviet people, including all the chemists in our country. The role and importance of Party Congresses in the life of Soviet society is great. The results of the creative and constructive activity of the Soviet people in the field of economics, foreign policy, science, and culture are summarised at the Congresses, and further advance by our country towards Communism is mapped out. The documents and resolutions of the Congresses make an invaluable contribution to the treasurehouse of Marxism-Leninism.

At the XXIVth Congress of the CPSU the fundamental questions of the economic policy of the Party at the given stage of Communist construction were formulated, the principal trends in control and planning were defined, new bases and resources for further development of publicly-owned industry were found, and an extensive foreign policy programme, a programme for peace was developed.

Subsequent years, which were marked by a considerable growth and strengthening of the economic potential of the USSR, the gain of even greater authority of our country in the international arena, the steady and logical realisation of the programme for peace, and decisive progress in defusing international tension, which became possible as a result of the indefatigable activity of the General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Comrade Leonid Il'ich Brezhnev, showed how fruitful and vitally necessary had been the plans drawn up by the XXIVth Party Congress.

The enormous scale of growth of industrial production is indicated by the fact that in many types of industrial production, including the production by the chemical industry, the Soviet Union has surpassed the level in the United States. At the present time we produce more petroleum, coal, iron ore, cast iron, cement, mineral fertilisers, tractors, cotten, and woollen fabrics, and many other products than in any other country.

The rapid development of production by the chemical industry is indicated, for example, by the fact that, during the period from 1965 to 1975, the production achieved by the chemical industry grew 1.44 times faster than the industrial production as a whole. During this period, the annual rates of growth of the production of mineral fertilisers, plastics, and chemical fibres, were 11.2, 13.6, and 8.7% respectively. As a result of this intense development, the contribution of the chemical and petrochemical industries to the overall production of the entire industry rose from 4.8% in 1965 to 6.8% in 1975.

Considerable advances were achieved in the field of agriculture; here the combined application of chemical agents together with mechanisation and land improvement has played a special role in the development of agricultural production.

The major role of the chemical industry in the development of industry as a whole as well as agriculture is due to the fact that it determines the rate of technical progress. In his report at the XXIVth Party Congress, Comrade L.I. Brezhnev noted that the application of chemistry to the national economy constitutes a powerful tool for increasing the efficiency of publicly-owned industry. A leading role has been assigned to the chemical industry in the solution of the problem of the further growth of the standard of living of the nation.

Under the conditions of modern scientific and technical revolution, the importance of chemical science in the life of Soviet society has increased significantly. The appearance

of new sources of energy and the creation of highly efficient and complex mineral fertilisers and synthetic materials having useful properties surpassing natural materials are related to chemical processes. All these factors promote to an enormous extent the creative and industrial activity of man. Fundamental research in the field of organic and inorganic chemistry and the chemistry of organic derivatives of the elements, associated with the investigation of molecular structure, reactivity, kinetics, reaction mechanisms, and catalysis, occupies an honourable place in the development of chemical science. One of the main trends in modern chemistry is further development of the foundations of bio-organic chemistry, polymer chemistry, petrochemistry, electrochemistry, high-energy chemistry, chemical engineering, and many other fields. Together with this, the problem of increasing the effectiveness of scientific research, the fastest possible application of the achievements of science and engineering in industry, has acquired special importance.

At the inaugural session devoted to the 250th Jubilee of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU, Comrade L.I. Brezhnev emphasised that "In the modern era the responsibility of the Soviet scientist to society has grown immeasurably. With increase of the scale and complexity of the problems which we are facing in our development, there is a steady growth also of the role of the cognitive principle in society—the role of the Party as the leading and controlling force in the building of Communism and also the role of science, which has been called upon to work out in a creative manner problems whose solution is the concern of the Party, the State, and the nation.... The role of scientists and scientific establishments— together with other units of our social organism— may and should be very great also in the solution of the important problem of accelerating the application of scientific achievements in industrial practice".

The Central Committee of the CPSU and the Soviet Government have taken enormous care in connection with the development of scientific research in our country, including research in chemistry. The outlay on the development of science from sums provided by the State budget and other sources has been increasing in the USSR from year to year. During only four years of the Ninth Five-Year Plan, the outlay on science amounted to about 60 000 million roubles and the annual rate of its increase has been 9%. At the end of 1974, there were 5275 research institutes, with their branches and divisions, and higher teaching establishments in the USSR. They employed 1 168 000 scientific workers (32 000 Doctors of Science and 309 000 Candidates of Science), which constitutes one fourth of the scientific workers of the entire world.

The Party and Soviet Government as well as the entire Soviet nation, who have not spared effort and means in the development of science, expect from scientist active participation in scientific and technical progress, in the interest of our country, in the interest of the building of Communism. Soviet scientists, inspired by the decision to convene the XXVth Congress of the CPSU, have taken a creative initiative designed to fulfil research plans, endeavouring, together with the Soviet nation, to mark in a suitable manner the highest Party forum, to make a new contribution to the storehouse of the material and spiritual wealth of the Socialist Motherland. Furthermore, the one and a half million army of Soviet chemists—workers, technicians, engineers, and scientists— have expressed their deep conviction that the coming Congress of the CPSU will open before our society grandiose prospects for advance towards Communism. Soviet chemist are ready to mark in a suitable manner the XXVth Party Congress and will endeavour to celebrate this historic event by greater creative efforts.